

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, EG, US, IS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S LETTER ON ISRAELI OIL
EXPLORATION/EXPLOITATION IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY

REF: CAIRO 12316

1. EMBASSY CAIRO SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S APRIL 30 LETTER TO SECRETARY RE
ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITY IN OC-
CUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. SIGNED COPY BEING POUCHED.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER:
-- THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 30 ARE
WELL UNDERSTOOD BY MY GOVERNMENT. AS YOU KNOW, THE LEGAL
POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE WAS
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SET FORTH IN A MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 1976, COPIES OF WHICH
HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO
YOUR OWN. MY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SUSTAIN THE VIEWS
EXPRESSED IN THAT DOCUMENT.

--RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA IN QUESTION HAVE EXACER-
BATED THE SITUATION. EARLIER THIS YEAR WE REMINDED THE
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL OF OUR LEGAL POSITION WHEN WE ADVISED

AGAINST ISRAEL'S INITIATING PRODUCTION FROM THE "ALMA" FIELD.

--AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, WE APPROACHED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AFTER OUR DEMARCHES, ISRAELI HARASSMENT CEASED AND AMOCO WAS ABLE TO PROCEED WITH ITS DRILLING WORK IN THE GULF.

--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUEST INCLUDED IN THE TEXT OF YOUR APRIL 4 LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM (LATER CIRCULATED AS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT A/33/79), WE UNDERTOOK AGAIN TO REMIND THOSE AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH WE KNOW TO BE ENGAGED IN RELEVANT ACTIVITY UNDER ISRAELI SPONSORSHIP OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR LATEST REQUEST, WE WILL FIND AN EARLY OCCASION ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

--PLEASE ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

-- SINCERELY,

S/CYRUS VANCE UNQUOTE

3. FOR TEL AVIV: REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS ON TIMING AND LEVEL OF DEMARCHE TO GOI BASED ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

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--AS WE HAD ANTICIPATED IN OUR MARCH DEMARCHE, GOE ONCE AGAIN FORMALLY HAS PROTESTED GOI AND GOI-SPONSORED EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

--THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FORMALLY HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GOE RESERVES ITS RIGHTS TO DEMAND RESTITUTION AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES STEMMING FROM PERTINENT ISRAELI-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

--USG POSITION ON THIS MATTER IS WELL KNOWN TO GOI. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO REITERATE THAT POSITION IN DETAIL AT THIS TIME. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOI DOES NOT SHARE USG LEGAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WISH TO NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION.

--WE BELIEVE THAT ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF EGYPTIAN RESOURCES AND HARASSMENT OF EGYPTIAN-SPONSORED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IS DESTRUCTIVE OF THE CLIMATE NECESSARY FOR THE CONDUCT OF FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH GOI TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATED PEACE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ISRAELI RATIONALE FOR INITIATING

AND CONTINUING THESE ACTIVITIES AT A TIME WHEN OUTCOME OF
CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT IS IN THE BALANCE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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